Property - 1922.

Arkansas

FARMERS FOOLED OUT OF FORTUNES BY LEGAL SHARKS

Arkansas Oil Land Owners in Grip of White Guardians; Federal Aid Asked

Chicago Tribune 4/11/22

Humnoke, Ark., April 11.—Federal authorities have been advised that white settlers in Union county, the seat of which is Eldorado, have conspired to rob a group of men who have come into possession of oil lands valued at more than $1,000,000.

The scene of the plot is laid on the Cotton Belt railroad near a town called Emerson. There a body of 10 men own vast oil holdings. The whites have gone about in the usual way to appoint themselves guardians of the legal owners of the land. This action on their part has been entirely unsolicited by the proprietors and has been administered by a bunch of shark lawyers. The owners are required to put into writing such agreements as bind them, whereas the white men do as they please and refuse to be bound by any sort of contract.

Defenseless

Unfortunately, the men in the district, even the men who have the property, are unable to protect themselves. The white leeches know this and make strong efforts to prevent any outside influence coming in and awaking their victims. People in surrounding counties have heard rumors of the situation, but any effort to effect an investigation has proved futile because of the watchful attitude maintained by the so-called guardians.

One man was sent there from here to see just what was being done. He returned with the story that the owners of the land were afraid to demand their rights. Several of them have been chased from their homes.

One incident referred to a man by the name of Jones, J. A. Jones. He was pastoring there. He sought to tell the people on the quiet of how they were being robbed by the whites. As soon as some of the planters heard about it they had him mobbed and he was forced to leave.

Lend $50,000

Some of the people have let white men have as much as $50,000 without demanding any security. If they ask for their money back they are threatened with death, and, if they become insistent, are driven or hidden away.

In Union county, where this condition obtains, the white people are largely in the majority. The victims are frightened and are praying for some force to come to their aid. That is the reason that most of the evidence which it has been possible to otbain has been taken and placed before the federal authorities, who have promised an immediate investigation.

Ever since the Elaine rioting and the consequent punishment meted out to men who sought to protect their home and get a decent wage, white people in the rural districts have taken more and more advantage of those who are doing the work. They know that they have them in their grip and they do not hesitate at any sort of imposition. The United States will have to act.

NEGROES DRILLING OIL WELL

EL DORADO, Ark., May 5.—H. G. Miller, drilling contractor, is drilling on the second well to be drilled in the El Dorado field by a company composed exclusively of negroes. The well is on the farm of [illegible] Rogson, who is a negro, [illegible]-19-5, and the company drilling the well is the Arkansas Oil & Lease Exchange, Inc., of Little Rock, composed of a number of the most substantial negroes of Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. The contract was let by the following directors: J. H. McConico, president; Thos. Pond, secretary and treasurer; J. J. G. Thornton, J. H. Barnhill, A. Thompson and C. B. King. The well will be tested Friday and a number of the members of the company are expected here to witness it. The company plans extensive operations and control some valuable holdings in the El Dorado field. A number of these negroes are from Memphis.

Commercial Appeal Memphis Tenn 5-7-22

WILL HELP NEGRO HOME.

Richest Black in World Will Pay Off Debt at Pine Bluff.

Commercial Appeal 12/7/22

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Dec. 6.—D. H. Raines, of Shreveport, La., said to be the richest negro in the United States, has agreed to pay off the indebtedness of the home for aged and orphan colored people which is located but a few miles west of this city. Some time ago a campaign was started to raise money to pay off the indebtedness and an appropriation was made by the levying court to aid in that movement.

Raines came here yesterday and in connection with his visit it is said that he will become the home's greatest benefactor and will use his own money to pay off the indebtedness and provide for a proper maintenance for the home. It is said that Raine's income from oil lands which he owns amounts to $500,000 each month.

W. S. Delay attorney of this city, will go to Helena tomorrow to clear up a title to some of the property upon which the home is located, and he said that when he concludes his work in Helena the home will not owe a dollar.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Property—1922.

G. F. C. SUN
AUGUST 14, 1922

Colored Property Owners.

Despite a common impression to the contrary negroes in the South grow steadily more prosperous. Their holdings of land, despite setbacks incident to periods of high prices or of depression, have gone on growing. A recent study made in North Carolina shows the increase in negroes' taxable property there. In 1921 they held $110,000,000, or five times the total valuation of negro property in 1910. From an average per capita of $34 in 1910 the colored man's holdings had grown in 1921 to $135.

It is true that the decade that included the boom times of the war brought few new negro farm owners. Unskilled labor came to receive more in a day than it had in a week. Negroes were too busy enjoying prosperity to bother with buying farms. Only 834 negroes were added to the rolls of land owners, while 5,000 white farmers bought their own places. In spite of this fact negroes to-day own 1,160,000 acres of North Carolina lands, and their holdings in other Southern States are on much the same scale.

The more intelligent whites of the South realize that what trouble they have with negroes is with the hand to mouth class. The home owner becomes a responsible member of the community. And so the wiser whites have helped in the negroes' purchase of farm lands.

WHEELING W. VA. REGISTER
OCTOBER 8, 1922

The Rise Of The Negro

A recent government report shows that Negroes in America during the past sixty years have made a phenominal rise. Since the days of slavery they have through their own efforts acquired 22,000,000 acres of land, own 600,000 homes and have built and paid for 45,000 churches They operate 70 banks, 100 insurance companies and 70,000 other business enterprises capitalized at $150,000,000. Illiteracy has been reduced to less than 27 per cent which compares most favorably with the whites in the hill and mountain districts. The Negro is rapidly making a place for himself in the world.

General

Norfolk Journal & Guide

BUYING POWER

The buying power of a people necessarily depends upon their earning power and intelligence and foresight in saving the increment of what they earn and placing it where it can be available for their purposes of progressive development; that is, when it is so placed that they can use it to finance their business, home buying and to tide them over periods of depression in business or wage-earning.

The JOURNAL AND GUIDE has compiled and issued in leaflet form for the information of advertisers a body of facts and figures that show in a conclusive and persuasive way, "The Buying Power of a People,"—the Negro population of ten Tidewater Virginia and eight Tidewater North Carolina counties being used as a basis for statement and conclusion of population and its earning and spending power. The leaflet contains a mine of useful and helpful information for the advertiser as well as for the average person with a hankering to know things. 11-25-22

Let us see. In the ten Tidewater Virginia counties the Negro population is 104,249; families, 20,855; per cent of literacy, 79.0; chief occupation, farming; estimated farm values, $14,531, 889.00. In the eight North Carolina counties, Negro population, 56,164; families, 11,284; per cent of literacy, 76.5; principal occupation, farming; estimated farm values, $8,763,435.00. In the four Tidewater Virginia cities, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News and Suffolk, the Negro population is 87,616; families, 18,548; literacy, 82.1; occupation, industries; assessed value of personal property. $1,150,132.00; assessed value of real estate, $8,348,435.00. Norfolk, Va.

We submit that this is a very creditable showing and should give our group heart of hope to "keep on a-coming" in population and accumulated values. The two make for character and power for our race in the National life.

Norfolk Journal & Guide

The value of farm lands and buildings owned by Negroes in Virginia and North Carolina is $324,505,807.00, according to government census reports. That is certainly a good showing for the race and shows that despite much migration to the towns and cities, especially of the north, the the farms are not being deserted by any means. 10/31/22 Norfolk Va.

RESEARCH OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES RESEARCH REEL 16

Property—1922

Georgia

NEGRO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS ARE ISSUED

Atlanta Constitution

Plans for 100 Homes in Colored Subdivision Are Being Laid.

1/8/22

Plans for constructing 25 additional bungalows and two-story houses for the use of Atlanta's negro population, on thirty-three acres of land at the corner of Ashby and Hunter streets, which was bought for that purpose by the Service company, a corporation of negro capitalists, were completed Saturday afternoon when the city of Atlanta granted a permit for erection of the homes. Friday a contract was made with the McDougal Construction company for laying of sewers, sidewalks and paved streets on and near the tract. The contract amounted to approximately $50,000.

It is planned to build on this land about 100 negro homes. Contracts for 30 have already been made, it being the policy of the concern to build only when the contract for the house and lot has been completed. There are already constructed five houses on the land, and when the 100 houses are built, which is slated to be within one year, the cost of the transaction will amount to approximately $400,000.

Prices of the houses and lots range from $2,500 to $12,000. The deal has been handled through the real estate department of the Citizens Trust company, colored banking institution at 180 Auburn avenue, which organization decided three months ago on a plan of supplying every colored family here with a home of its own.

SAVANNAH GA. PRESS
JANUARY 4, 1922

Title Recovered.

Title to twelve acres of valuable laid, located in the Fifth G. M. district, was regained in the superior court this morning by Susan Kinchlo, Mary Edwards and Mary S. Sawyer from Isaac D. LaRoche. The land, which is situated at the intersection of Moore avenue and the old Thunderbolt shell road and also has a frontage on Victory avenue, was formally the property of W. H. Styles, e

NEGRO PROGRESS

A half century of discussion of the Negro question has not brought forth a solution satisfactory to every element in the two races concerned. But the Negro himself has gone about solving the problem by making himself a better citizen, by buying homes and farm lands, by taking advantage of what educational oportunities are offered him, and by giving steadily increasing support to his own spiritual agencies.

The progress of the race during the last vfty years, as told in the Negro Year Book, is an achievement of which it may well be proud. In a half century homes owned by Negroes have increased from 12,000 to 650,000, farms operated from 20,000 to one million, and businesses conducted from 2,100 to 60,000. Negroes hold at present some twenty million acres of land, an area equal to that of the New England States without Maine. Added to these evidences of material progress are the statistics which show that literacy among Negroes has increased from 10 per cent. to 80 per cent. that voluntary contributions to churches have increased from $80,000 to two million seven hundred thousand dollars (and that the number of churches has risen from 7000 to 45,000.

The contribution of the Negro to the economic wealth of the country, particularly the South, has been one of almost inestimable value. Nor has the South proved itself worthy ungrateful as was pointed out in an address delivered at Hampton Institute by Anson Phelps Stokes. He told of the millions of dollars spent for Negro education and said the Southern white man had taxed himself heavily to educate his Negro neighbors. The past decade, particularly, has witnessed a marked change in the attitude of Southern white man towards Negro education, which has resulted in steadily increasing appropriations not only for education but also for health work and for other agencies of uplift

The Negro's effort to raise himself and the remarkable success of his efforts are an aid to race pride And when each of the two races has the proper sort of race pride in sufficient amount the answer to a vexatious question will at least be greatly simplified.

WHITE TAX VALUES FALL IN CHATHAM

Atlanta Constitution

Savannah, Ga., July 28.—(Special.) The completed digest of taxable property in Chatham county for this year shows a falling off in property owned by white people and an increase in the valuation of property held by negroes. The total returns is nearly sixty million dollars. The decrease of returns by whites is a quarter-million; the increase for colored taxpayers is half that amount.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Property — 1922

Kansas.

TOPEKA KAN JOURNAL
JANUARY 28, 1922

BIG ESTATE LEFT BY NEGRO

William Peoples, Who Died in 1916, Was Worth $90,000.

During a transaction in regard to certain real estate records in the Santa Fe law offices this week it was found that William Peoples, colored, who died at his home in Montezuma, Kan. in 1916, left an estate worth $90,000. Included in the estate are two sections of land in Reno county.

It is said that Peoples and his brother, Virdmand Peoples, settled in Gray county about twenty-five years ago. At that time their means were very limited but by diligent work on the farm, and thru the increase in lan values, they became wealthy. Virdman Peoples, who is still living, is said to be worth at least $50,000.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH PEL 16

Property – 1922

Louisiana

WHITES FIGHT TO KEEP OIL LANDS FROM WOMAN

New Orleans, La., Jan. 31.—A rehearing is to come up soon of the case of Mrs. Lilly S. Taylor, who holds title to oil lands in Clairborne parish estimated to be worth $15,000,000. Mrs. Taylor is the acknowledged natural child of Isom and Lona McGee, the original owners. She was given possession under decision of Judge J. E. Reynolds of the Claiborne parish court. The holders of the land appealed this decision and the supreme court of Louisiana confirmed Mrs. Taylor's title. Not being satisfied an application was made for a rehearing, and Mrs. Taylor's continued possession hangs on the outcome of this rehearing.

COLORED WOMAN WINS POSSESSION OF MANY MILLIONS

St. Louis Argus Mo.

Refineries And Oil Wells Worth $29,000,000 Awarded To Her After Long Fight In Louisiana Courts

Special to the Argus.

HOMER, La., Feb. 2—Twenty-nine million dollars in accrued assets, numerous oil wells, and a big oil refinery in Claiborne Parish Louisiana, have all been found by the Louisiana Supreme Court to be the property of Miss Lillian Turner, colored as sole heiress of her mother, Mrs. Lona McGhee.

Through a decision of the state Supreme Court last fall Miss Turner was awarded a rehearing in the case after an injunction which prevented her from obtaining title to her inheritance at the time. Formerly, April 11, the third district court of Claiborne Parish awarded the lands and property to the Colored heiress, the State of Louisiana contesting the decision and obtaining a rehearing of the whole case on the grounds of a contention that Miss Turner was an illegitimate child of her mother, Mrs. McGhee.

Another contestant, Mrs. Angelina Allen mother of Mrs. McGhee and grandmother of Miss Turner began a contest of the claims of her grand-daughter when oil was discovered on the otherwise worthless property but was defeated in both the lower and higher courts.

The final, big battle in the case came up in the courts at this place on January 17. There were many witnesses on both sides, and every effort was made by several white persons with the assistance of suborned Negroes to wrest the colored woman's enormous holding from her. The excellence of the case and the strength of the claim which was made by the rightful hieress, though, were of a nature to bring to her aid some of the best legal talent of this section of the country, with the rare result that Miss Turner recieved an absolutely fair decision and came into full and absolute possession of what is possibly one of the largest fortunes in the United States owned by a woman.

The land upon which oil was found and which is finally the sole property of Lillian Turner was originally a part of the worn out Louisiana bottom land, practically worthless for farming purpose and useful only as a place of residence for a few poor people. At no time until finally its value went up by leaps and bounds with the coming in of the first big gusher, was the land worth at the outside of more than $5,000. No interest was taken in it nor its owners. The poverty stricken Angelina Allen, Lorna McGhee and Lillie Turner, grandmother, mother and daughter were of no consequence, apparently, to themselves their neighbors nor the community.

No thought was ever taken of any of the parties to the case. Like many other farms in this district the Turner farm was in the oil belt. Experiments upon it were the same as thousands of other experiments which have been conducted and nothing obtained from them excepting hard work and blasted hope.

Once it was established though, that the oil upon the place was real oil and that the money to be made from it was real money, some of the best legal talent of this section became the ardent solicitors for the favors of the despised three colored women. No case in the history of Louisiana has ever attracted more widespread interest and at this time no woman in the state is more cordially received nor more warmly thought of than Lillian Turner, with her $29,000,000 golden halo.

$29,000,000 OIL FIELD WON BY A LOUISIANA GIRL

Baltimore Afro American

Court Decision Makes Miss Lillian Turner Richest Colored Woman In America

2/10/22

HEIRESS KNEW POVERTY

Before Oil Was Discovered Would Have Been Glad To Sell Whole Property

Homer, La., Feb. 9—With $29,000,000 in accrued assets, numerous oil wells and an oil refinery in Clayton Parish, this State, Miss Lillian Turner in one big step has jumped from poverty to the position of one of America's wealthiest women. A few years ago she would have taken a few thousand for her holdings.

Miss Turner comes into the possession of her property which she inherited from her mother. Mrs. Lorna McGee, by a decree of the State of Louisiana Supreme Court. Other claimants of the property were Mrs. Angelina Allen, her grandmother and the State of Louisiana. The Supreme Court threw out bth claims and decided ion favor Miss Turner.

This was done after the district court of Clayton Parish had turned down the appeal of the State of Louisiana to gain control of the property by declaring Miss Turner to be the illegitimate child of Mrs. McGee. At the big battle in the court there were many witnesses on both sides. Colored witnesses were employed on the side of the State in the offort to get Miss Turner's property out of her control.

Knew What Poverty Is

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Who says that a negro can not get justice in a Southern court? Let Lillie Taylor of Louisiana answer. Lillie's claim to $15,000,000 worth of oil lands have just been upheld by the Supreme Court of her State, with the result that while a few days ago she was a scrub woman, she is today the richest negress in the world.

Montgomery Advertiser Ala. 3/4/22

PELICAN STATE SUPREME COURT HOLDS LILLIAN TURNER LEGAL HEIRESS TO STARTLING FORTUNE

Houston Tex. Informer 2/25/22

Special to the Informer.

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Negress Adjudged Owner Of Rich Oil Properties

Associated Press Report

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 28.—Oil lands in Claiborne parish said to be worth nearly $20,000,000 were declared yesterday by the Louisiana supreme court to be the property of Lillie G. Taylor, a negress.

Court Denies Claim To Half of Taylor Girl's Rich Estate

3/31/22

Mrs. Glenn Loses Suit to Acquire Equal Share of Oil Lands

Pittsburgh Courier

(Associated Negro Press)

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 31.—The Louisiana Supreme Court denied the claim of Frances Scott Glenn, race woman of Memphis, Tenn., to one half of the oil lands in Claiborne Parish and $20,000,000 recently awarded to Lillie G. Taylor another race woman.

The Glenn woman who claimed to be the daughter of Lona McGhee by a second husband, sued George West, in posession of the lands when claimed by Lillie Taylor, and the Gulf Refining Company, who had leased them to bore for oil, for possession of one half of the lands and for all money realized from oil taken from the property. The court in its decision awarded the property to the Taylor woman and declared that the latter was naturally the daughter of Lona McGhee.

The court denied the Glenn woman's suit on the ground that she could not claim the land as property of her father as he had not been placed in possession of it by law, nor was he in possession of it as owner when Lona McGhee died.

BLIND MAN MADE WEALTHY BY OIL LANDS

Afro-American

Destitute Before, Wright Rock of Louisiana Becomes Near-Millionaire Over Night

Baltimore, Md.

FATHER OF FIFTEEN

12/22/22

Shreveport, La., Dec. 20.—Sitting in the blackness of eternal night, for many years ago he lost the sight of both eyes, Wright, Rock of De Soto parish, 75 years old, on whose land oil was discovered recently, takes calmly the sudden change in his fortune which has elevated him to the ranks of the financially independent.

"Uncle Wright" is of the old school and hardly realizes that the two Rock wells in section 32-12-11 completed as large oil wells on his farm by A. H. Tarver, white, are bringing him daily more money than he ever hoped to make as a return from the truck of his little farm. He is the father of fifteen children, all but two of whom long ago left the paternal roof. "I guess they'll come back now," he said simply.

When informed of his wealth upon completion of the first well, and asked what he was going to do with the money, the old man replied: "Well, I guess I'll just buy me a few clothes and sumpthin' for to eat."

Besides the original lease money which he received for the eighty-acre tract on which the Tarver wells are located, the aged ex-slave receives a one-eighth royalty from the production and other wells will be drilled, it is said. The wells already producing are making an aggregate of 2500 barrels.

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
DEC 16

Property — 1922. Louisiana.

NEW ORLEANS LA PICAYUNE
APRIL 15, 1922

THOUSANDS WAIT FOR LOST HEIRS

Money and Property Valued at $150,000 Held by Treasury.

Money and property valued at more than $150,000 possessions of persons dying without relatives in New Orleans during recent months have been turned into the state treasury, paid heirs elsewhere or are now being held by Thomas C. Nichols, public administrator for the parish of Orleans for the heirs, it is shown in his annual report to Governor Parker.

The largest estate to come into the hands of the administrator is that of the famous negro philanthropist, Thomy Lafon, who left a fortune of $443,000 when he died in 1893. This, however, has been reduced to some $80,000 by the payment of bequests made by him to various charities principally negro associations.

A total of $72,890.76 has been handled for other estates ranging from large to very small amounts, many of them insufficient to defray the expense of a funeral.

Mr. Nichols' report to Governor Parker contained accounts of the disposal of money and property left by seventy persons dying in New Orleans without relatives or others to care for them. This shows an average of more than $1000 for each homeless person.

Of the seventy estates, Mr. Nichols' report shows that he has disposed of money or property left by forty-one of them. Efforts are being made to locate heirs of twenty-one of these successions. Eleven heirs have been placed in possession of property and money of twenty-two successions amounting to $9467.05, has been paid into the state treasury.

NEGROES LEAVE BIG ESTATES

Funeral bills paid by the public administrator during the year amounted to $5248.61; attorneys' fees in endeavoring to locate heirs, representing the state in the affairs, and performing notarial work, $9011.36; Mr. Nichols' commissions as fixed by law, $1455.44; to doctors, nurses and similar expense incurred before the death of the persons, $3318.36; for graves and religious services, $810.86, and other miscellaneous debts of those dying, $909.37.

These and other small expenditures for accountants' fees for the examination of succession accounts handled by the administrator totaled $29,662.74.

Aside from the estate of Thomy Lafon, which Mr. Nichols assumed charge of during the year, the largest succession handled by him was that of Joachim Bourgeouis, another negro, amounting to $21,614.68, which is being contested in Supreme Court by persons claiming to be heirs.

Another of the larger estates, left by E. H. Shute, amounting to $4140.25, is also being held for supposed heirs, who are believed by Mr. Nichols to have been located. Shute left real estate on Chartres street and other property.

time. This is the only ... plant using the invention thus far.

USES ANY KIND OF OIL

Mrs. Shaw has used everything i the way of oil from kerosene to th very poorest grades of crude oil, fu of dirt and foreign substances. Sh has yet to record a failure. Naturall the government is taking a keen in terest in this development and is mak ing tests periodically to determin exactly how much of a saving ove other fuels can be effected. Thes tests have not been completed an the figures therefore are not avai able.

Mrs. Shaw says that in its preser form the invention is practicable fo plants, office buildings, locomotive and ships. It has been successfull tried out on ships, but until it is a b more refined probably will not com into general use. Mrs. Shaw herse is authority for this statement. " will install the thing and get stea up for them, but I want to leave th ship before it leaves the dock," sh declares.

The best kind of fuel for use i Mrs. Shaw's invention has proved t be good fuel oil or the oil known a ... Special." However, practi

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH APR 16

Property — 1922

Missouri Has Negro Farm Agent,. Economic Specialist

Wilmington Advocate

(Associated Negro Press)

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., Jan. 4.—Fifty per cent. of Missouri Negro farmers own $16,542,607 worth of farm property, according to recent census statistics, sent to the Missouri Negro Industrial Commission office. Of the 178,000 Negroes in Missouri, only about 40,000 live in rural districts. The farmers have a Negro Farmers' Bureau, with about 2000 members, Floyd Winn, of Dalton, recently elected chairman. Through the University of Missouri, the Negroes of the state are given one farm agent and one H. H. economics specialist. Mr. J. W. Butler, of Dalton, is the farm agent, and Mrs. H. K. Patrick Williams, of Maysville, is the economics specialist. It is highly desirable that other government funds may be available soon so that the hundreds of Negroes in the extreme southeastern section of the state may have the advantage of the agricultural extension work.

Land Thought Valueless Now Worth $2,500,000

Pittsburgh Courier

(By The Associated Negro Press)

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 19.—James Manuel, Colored, of Kansas City, is a millionaire, twice over. But he doesn't know it.

For when Manuel left Tampico, Mexico, years ago, he thought a strip of land he owned there was valueless.

Now, according to a letter received by R. A. Kope, lawyer, Manuel's property is in the heart of the greatest oil district in the world. It is worth $2,250,000 according to a letter received by Kope from Joe Espino, a former friend of Manuel, who is seeking the immigrant in the hope that he may claim the fortune due him.

Espino has lost trace of his former friend. The last time he heard from him, Manuel was living in Kansas City.

NEGROES OWNERS OF LARGE FARM LANDS IN MISSOURI

Birmingham Ala. Reporter

(By Associated Negro Press.)

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JEFFERSON CITY MO. NEWS
MAY 17, 1922

WEALTHY NEGRO IS RELEASED ON BONI

Heber Rankin and R. W. Stokes Furnish Bail of $5,000 for D. H. Hays.

D. H. Hays, negro convict, reputed to be worth around $4,000,00 in oil lands near Tampico, Meixco, was released from the penitentiary yesterday on a writ of habeas corpus granted by the Supreme Court. He gave a $5,000 bond signed by Heber Rankin and R. W. Stokes, Jefferson City negroes. The sentence imposed upon him for forging a $600 check will be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Hays has served terms in the Oklahoma penitentiary and in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. Hays is obeying the injunction of his attorney in refusing to talk about his fortune, and prison officials are doubtful as to its reality. Being at liberty Hays, will have an opportunity to substantiate his claim.

Missouri

HIGH SCHOOL BOY MARRIES MISS RECTOR

Chicago Defender

11-4-22

Kenneth Campbell, Graduate of Lincoln, Wed to Rich Girl During September

Ill. Chicago

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 3.—Miss Sarah Rector, known as the richest girl of the Race, was married Sept. 16 to Kenneth Campbell at Lawrence, Kan. Mrs. Rector, mother of the bride, and Mrs. Campbell, grandmother of the bridegroom, were the only witnesses of the ceremony.

The wedding was entirely quiet and has just been announced by C. H. Calloway, Miss Rector's attorney.

Hurt Last Week

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell figured in an automobile accident last week en route from Sedalia, Mo., where they had attended a football game between Lincoln high school and George R. Smith college. The car turned over and they received very painful injuries. They were brought to Wheatley Provident hospital where they received medical attention and are now convalescing.

Mr. Campbell is a recent graduate of Lincoln high school, where he made an enviable record. He won prizes in athletics and a scholarship to Lincoln university.

Mrs. Campbell came to this city from Oklahoma. Some years ago the country was startled by the announcement of the discovery of a millionaire girl, a member of the Race. It was at the beginning of the Oklahoma oil boom. Sarah Rector was the first to achieve prominence as possessing great wealth. In her wake followed a number of others.

Her Guardians

Discovery of her wealth was the signal for the birth of a new type of shark, the "oil grabber guardian." Riches had come to her from land that had hitherto been regarded as only medium soil for farming. When oil was found her status was changed from that of a farmer girl to that of a girl with thousands who might become the victim of the avaricious. It was at that time that a number of white guardians were sprung to protect Miss Rector and all her money. Much court action had to be resorted to before she was rid of this annoyance.

Other girls who became wealthy in like manner were in like manner pursued, the latest instance being that of Miss Annie Cully, Oklahoma girl.

No certain figure as to the extent of Mrs. Campbell's holdings is available. She maintains one of the finest homes in this city and is known to have other real estate interests. C. H. Calloway, a Race attorney, is her advisor.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell will take a trip as soon as they leave the hospital, during which time Mr. Campbell will decide just what course he is to take, whether he is to continue in school or embark in business.

Property — 1922. Maryland.

MURPHY ESTATE IS LEFT TO CHILDREN

Will Of Afro Publisher Disposes Of Estate Valued At $50,000 To $65,000

5/5/22 Afro-American

By the will of the late John H. Murphy offered for probate in the Orphans Court this week, an estate, estimated to be worth between $50,000 and $65,000 is to be divided equally between his ten children and their heirs. His sons George B. and Carl are named executors without bond. The document was drawn two years ago by Attorney Warner . McGuinn and witnessed by Mrs. Lavinia Henry and Samuel D. Haywood.

The principal portion of the estate is 400 shares of stock in the AFRO-AMERICAN Company, the majority of the capital stock of the company, which is to be held in trust by the late Daniel H. Murphy, John H. Murphy, Jr., and D. Arnett Murphy and administered by them for the benefit of Mrs. Eva Purdy, Mrs. Nettie Gilbert, George B. Murphy, Estate Lilly B. Murphy, Estate Daniel Murphy, John H. Murphy, Jr., Frances Murphy, Mrs. Rose Oliver, Carl Murphy and D. Arnett Murphy.

Several pieces of real estate including the home at 1616 McCulloh street are also to be divided equally among the ten children. Jewelry etc. is left to John H. Murphy Jr. and all household effects to Miss Frances Murphy absolutely.

A codicil of the will directs that $300 be paid over to Mrs. Lavinia S. Henry for "long and faithful service" with the AFRO-AMERICAN COMPANY. The codicil is witnessed by Elenora Wright and Nellie Sampsn.

Editor of Afro-American Remembers Staff in Will

Cleveland O. Call 5/20/22

EDITOR MAKES WILL

(Associated Negro Press)

BALTIMORE, Md., May 20.—By the will of the late John H. Murphy offered for probate in the Orphans Court this week, an estate, estimated to be worth between $50,000 and $65,000 is to be divided equally between his ten children and their heirs. His sons, George B. and Carl, are named executors without bond. The document was drawn two years ago by Attorney Warner McGuinn and witnessd by Mrs. Lavinia Henry and Samuel D. Haywood.

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DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH DEL 16

Property—1922.

SEEK NEGRO IN K. C. NOW WORTH TWO MILLION.

Owns Strip of Oil Lands in Tampico Field Valued at $2,250,000.

Kansas City Mo. Sun

4/29/22

James Manuel, Colored, of Kansas City, is a millionaire, twice over. But he doesn't know it.

For when Manuel left Tampico, Mexico, years ago, he thought a strip of land he owned there was valueless.

Now, according to a letter received by R. A. Kope, lawyer, 433 Lee Building, Manuel's property is in the heart of the greatest oil district in the world. It is worth $2,250,000, according to a letter received by Kope from Joe Espino, a former friend of Manuel who is seeking the immigrant, in the hope that he may claim the fortune due him.

Espino has lost trace of his former friend. The last time he heard from him, Manuel was living in Kansas City.

Espino has forgotten the address Kope is seeking the millionaire in order that he may close details through which the fortune can be secured.

Property - 1922

Oklahoma

Colored Girl Millionaire Saved From White and Colored Sharks

Court Decides Sarah Rector Is Competent To Handle Own Fortune

4/15/22
Louisville Ky. News

Kansas City, Mo., April 10.—Miss Sarah Rector, America's $1,000,000 oil queen, is rejoicing at her home following the decision of Judge J. E. Guinott, deciding that she was competent to take care of her own money.

Two applications were filed, one by John Collins, colored ,an uncle of Miss Rector, asking that Monte Sampson, white, be appointed a guardian, and another by G. C. Parker, white, asking that he be appointed guardian of the estate.

The applications charged that because of her age, Miss Rector was incompetent to handle the large income from her fortune. Judge Guinott ruled that iMss Rector was of lega lage and capable of administering her own estate. The Rector estate, the value of which is estimated at $1,500,000, consistes of $500,000 in oil lands in Oklahoma and $1,000,000 in Kansas.

The judge not only refused the plea of a white and a colored man to manage her estates, but complimented Miss Sarah highly on her intelligence and thrift. Miss Rectors' wealth is derived from her allotment in the great Cushing oil fields, one of the richest fields in Oklahoma. She received this allottment under the Cree kIndian Act, which gave Negroes held as slaves by Indians the same property rights as their masters.

The allotment yields an annual income of between $30,000 and $40,000. A large part of this revnue Miss Rector has invested in Liberty bonds and farm land. She has about $300,000 invested in the bonds and her 970 acres of land are valued at nearly $100,000.

Miss Rector, who is a pure blooded Negro, lives wit hher parents in what was once one of the most fashionable districts of the city, but is now being taken over by the wealthier colored folk. Apparently she shpplies both the funds and the financial genius for the family, and she manages the household well and economically.

She owns an automobile, not pretentious but good, and in the matter of dress is about on a par with the average girl of her age. She is a high school graduate, but she did not win any honors at school.

To Charles H. Galloway, a learned and brilliant young attorney, who is legal adviser for Miss Rector, is due the credit for the successful termination of the fight that has been going on in the courts for years and both Miss Rector and Judge Calloway have been showered with congratulations; she for having the race layalty an dcourage to employ a Negro lawyer in a contest involving such large sums, and he for the magnificent and masterly manner in which he has handled the case from beginning to end.

MISS SARAH RECTOR AND BROTHER VISIT CITY

Chicago Defender
5-26-22

Looking just like any other little boy, only a little more so, Alfred Rector, 13, tipped his tiny hat to Miss Chicago last Friday evening when he, in company with his multi-millionaire sister, Sarah Rector, and seven others, rode into the city after motoring from Kansas City in Miss Rector's specially built Cadillac touring car. The entire party is stopping at the New Vincennes hotel.

Alfred Rector

Accompanying the young man were his mother, Mrs. Rosa Rector; Joseph Rector, brother; Miss Lue Alice Rector, sister; Miss Irma Williamson, Mrs. Mollie Williamson, Mrs. Alta Williamson and Emboy Nelson. The party will leave Chicago at the end of this week, returning to Kansas City.

Young Alfred paid a special visit to the Chicago Defender plant and, after looking over the maze of machinery and so forth, declared that he thinks he will stick to his original intention of becoming a lawyer some day. He is now in the fifth grade of the Attucks school in Kansas City. Miss Sarah Rector is a student in the Lincoln high school. One of the local callers on the family while in the city was Count Joseph Carmichael, 3507 Grand boulevard. The count says there is nothing to the rumor that the rich Miss Rector is engaged.

COURT REFUSES TO APPOINT GUARDIAN FOR SARAH RECTOR

Baltimore Md. Herald
3/22/22

Holds That Law Does Not Apply To 20-Year-Old Girl

Kansas City, March 21. (Special)—Judge Jules E. Gu[illegible]tte, of the Probate Court, refused to grant ar application for the appointment of a guardian for Sarah Rector, 20-year-old oil queen of Oklahoma, said to be one of the richest women in Ameri ca.

It was set out in the applicatio that a guardian should be appointe to comply with the provisions of recent Missouri law which raised th age of majority of wamen from 1 to 21 years. Judge Guinotte, hel that the majority law was not retr active. Testimony showed that sh was of legal age under the old law

Sarah Rector, who lives with h mother, Mrs. Rose Rector, owns mo than three-quarter million dollars oil properties in her own name.

W. W. C. MATE
JULY 24, 1922

Negro Porter's Oil Land Brings $150,000

Arkansis City.—William Wright, negro porter at a local garage, adopted by the Creek Indian tribe a number of years ago, and given a headright, has accepted $150,000 for his land near Okmulgee, Ok., and receives one-eighth royalty on the oil from fourteen producing wells. S. W. Swine Oil Company is the purchaser.—Kansas City Star.

Sarah Rector Orders Car From Headen Motor Works

Kansas City Star
9/24/22

L. A. Headen, president of the Headen Motor Car Co., accompanied Mrs. Rosa Rector, 2000 East 12th street, Kansas City, Mo., and her two cars and Mrs. Williamson, her traveling compaion, on an extended tour through Missouri. The party left here Aug. 26 and the first day stopped in St. Louis at the Grand Central hotel, the second day at Columbia, Mo., where the entire party camped out, arriving in Kansas City on the third day. Mr. Headen was joined in Kansas City by Mrs Headen, who made the return trip through Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa with her husband driving in the Headen car to Omaha at a terrific pace Here they were entertained by one of Omaha's leading business men, Alphonso Wilson.

Miss Sarah Rector has ordered a specially built Headen roadster to be delivered as soon as possible. While in Kansas City Mr. Headen attended to business pertaining to the western sales department, managed by James Baker, 2310 Pine street.

Mr. and Mrs. Headen arrived in Chicago Sept. 23 and he will leave Sunday, Oct. 1, for Nashville, Tenn., where he will be the guest of Dr. Crawford. From Nashville he will motor to Shreveport, La., in the Headen car.

Oklahoma Girl Sues Grafting Attorney

Pittsburg American Pa.
10/27/22

OKEMAH, Okla., Oct. 27.—A suit has been filed in the district court here against Attorney P. E. Gumm of Okmulgee, for $100,000 damages. The suit is brought by Annie Cully, wealthy Negro girl, and is the result of a similar suit filed against the Cully girl by Gumm some time ago, in which he asks $50,000 damages.

Miss Cully is suing for $50,000 actual, and $50,000 exemplary damages, which she claims in her petition was caused by her alleged arrest and incarceration in a Chicago jail when she was there on a visit with friends. In the petition she states that Gumm, acting through his agents, servants and certain detectives and officers without any warrant or other legal process of law, "falsley, wantonly, maliciously and illegally and unlawfully" caused her arrest and imprisonment in the Chicago jail for a space of about four hours.

Annie Cully, who became of age a few months ago, owns an allotment in Okfuskee county, which is very valuable for it soil, and lawyers have been keeping her reasonably busy since she gained her majority.

Property—1922. Pennsylvania

Supreme Court Decides Denniston Estate Case In Favor of Mrs. Brooks

Defeats Relatives of Rich Oil Broker Who Sought to Rob Her of $105,000 Bequest; Verdict Ends Four Years of Sensational Litigation

Pittsburgh Gazette American 3/31/22

NEW YORK, March 31.—A verdict in favor of Mrs. Cora Nelson Brooks, well known Pittsburgh woman, returned by a jury in the Bronx Supreme Court brings the sensational Denniston estate case to a final close. Absolute right to securities, Liberty Bonds, jewelry and cash valued at over $105,000 bequeathed Miss Brooks by William A. Denniston (white) former millionaire oil broker of this city, was decreed by the court.

The final verdicts terminates four years of litigation in the courts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, during which time Miss Brooks has pressed her right to her fortune through some of the best legal talent in the country.

During December of 1919 the case came up for what it was thought would prove a final settlement. The American carried detailed stories on the case both before and during its progress.

Sister Becomes Plaintiff

The plaintiff in the sensational case was Mrs. Nannie V. Staley, of Harrisburgh, Pa., sister of the deceased broker. Facts involved in the trials as previously told by the American are as follows:—

William A. Denniston, about 75 years of age, a retired oil broker who amassed a fortune in the oil business and who for many years was a member of the Chicago stock exchange, died in the latter part of December, 1918, at his Squirrel Hill residence, following a stroke of paralysis. About two days before his death Mr. Denniston, who was a bachelor, called in a justice of the peace, his lawyer and one witness, and executed transfer of bonds and securities to Mrs. Cora Nelson Brooks, who was adopted in the Denniston home by the deceased at the age of 4 years and to whom he felt everlastingly grateful for faithful services rendered him in serious illness. A few days later he made Mrs. Brooks a verbal gift of a vast sum in cash and jewelry that he had in the house.

The question involved in the case is the competency of the deceased broker to transact business at the time he executed the transfer of the Liberty bonds and made the verbal gift of cash and jewlry, prior to his death.

Mr. Denniston also made a will in which equal division of his real estate was made, Mrs. Brooks receiving a share ten months after the deceased's death. His will was filed for probate, cutting his sister and niece off with one dollar each and leaving Mrs. Brooks one-third of his estate. Mrs. Staley, the sister of the deceased, contested the will, but lost out in the Ohio courts. She appealed the case and lost again with the result that the will was upheld.

Chronicle 3/31/22

Mrs. Staley next tried the Pennsylvania courts but again failing of her purpose moved the case on to New York.

Loses Case Again

It was inability to prove any mental defects of her deceased brother while making the will that again lost the case for the sister. Attorney Amos C. Shearn, representing Mrs. Brooks, proved that witnesses produced by the plaintiff had not known the broker. Alienists who were content to testify that Denniston had been unsound mentally and sought to base their testimony on hyposteses were scored by the attorney.

The total amount left to Miss Brooks is said to be in the neighborhood of $176,000.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES RESEARCH RTL 16

Property—1922.

South Carolina.

WEALTHIEST NEGRO PLANTER OF SOUTH CAROLINA DIES

Baltimore Herald & Communwealth

Jonas W. Thomas Of Bennettsville, S. C., Passes—Was Worth $300,000

11-22-22

Baltimore Md.

Bennettsville, S. C.—The "Negro Cotton King" of South Carolina, Jonas W. Thomas, wealthiest and most prominent member of his race in Marlboro county, died here on Friday night, November 3, aged 57 years. His death came unexpectedly, as he was seen on the streets of Bennettsville on Thursday. But he had been sick for some time, suffering from Bright's disease and diabetes and had recently undergone treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and at Battle Creek, Sanitarium, Michigan.

Mr. Thomas was a notable figure. He owned one of the largest plantations in South Carolina, and cultivated it with such success that he was crowned a "cotton king" by all of South Carolina. He was engaged in business with a white partner; after putting his own land in shape, he supervised the cultivation of his partner's land. In one year the profits amounted to $50,000, divided equally between the two men.

He owned at the time of his death a large mercantile business here and was reputed to be worth at least $300,000. Leading white and colored citizens of the State attended the funeral and paid tribute to his memory.

The funeral was held from Levil Green A .M. E. Church, the Rev. D. S. Curry, pastor, who was assisted by the Rev. Richard Carroll of Columbia, a lifelong friend of the deceased. Mr. Thomas was active in church work, and had for years been a member and officer of Level Greer Church. He was a delegate to the general conference of his A. M. E. Church in 1916 and 1920. He was also a member of the Landmark Lodge, A. F. & A. Masons.

The Columbia State, one of the leading dailies in South Carolina, said of Mr. Thomas, in reporting his death, that:

"The white people, without exception, esteemed Jonas Thomas very highly, as he was an honorable and upright citizen. He was an advocate of progress and education as well as morality and Christianity. His influence among the Negroes was potent for good in all directions. He was one of the originators of the colored bank in Bennettsville."

HIGHER WAGES MUST BE PAID TO KEEP LABOR IN THE SOUTH

Baltimore Herald Nov 23 22

& Commonwealth

(Manufacturers Record)

A leading lumber operator in North Carolina calls the attention of the Manufacturers Record to the fact that the iron and steel people of the East now have their agents at work in the South seeking to draw Negro laborers away from present employment and carry them North and West. He writes that a few weeks ago two car loads of Negroes were taken out of Richmond for work at Northern steel plants, and he adds, "I am told that one-half of the Negroes who went North to work during the war period have since died. Poorly and thickly housed they soon contract tuberculosis and die. It is stealing, pure and simple, to take these men away from us who need them so badly, and when work is slack again at the steel mills they will be the first to be discharged. I wish you would look into this and see what can be done."

To this complaint the Manufacturers Record can only say that nothing can be done to stop the efforts of Northern and Western iron and steel works, short-handed as they are, from seeking to draw Negro labor from the South. We were recently told that from one county in Georgia more than 60 per cent. of the Negro tenants on cotton plantations had left for other sections, and a somewhat similar movement, though perhaps not quite so heavy, is going on in every part o fthe South. Many Negro tenanst who have had to face the boll weevil conditions, against which they are not equal to contend, are receiving tempting offers at larger pay than they have been getting in the South to go North and West. Naturally they are moving that way.

The South must face the situation that the North and West will to the utmost extent of their ability drain Negro labor away from the cotton farms and from industries on the promise of larger pay. The Negroes who are moving North will not be frightened by the report of adverse housing conditions, or sickness produced by loving conditions around the steel mills and iron works. The South must solve the problem of the retention of its laborers by paying wages commensurate with the wage which they are offered in other sections. The curse of the South has been its low wages on the farm and in the factory and in the office. Many years ago the late Edward Atkinson through the Manufacturers Record repeatedly warned the South that it would inevitably lose its Negro working population, which is a great asset of this section, unless it improved their living conditions and gave them higher wages, and, said he "low wages are in the end the costliest wages."

Yon can not develop the individual man or the individual country to full capacity on low wages. Unwise leadership has ever since the Civil War held wages in the South to a figure far below the wages paid in other sections. This has proved an economic curse. If wages had been adjusted on a higher scale, affording a better living opportunity for laboring men, white and black, better homes and better living conditions generally, the whole South would have been lifted to a higher plane of prosperity. High wages and high salaries were largely responsible for the great development of the Pacific Coast, and for the abounding prosperity which has existed in that section, as well as in many parts o fthe West.

The South must come to a realization of the necessity of paying higher wages. It must retain its laborers by paying wages commensurate, measured by the cost of living, with the wages paid elsewhere. It must give to its laboring people, white and black, on the farm and in the factory, better homes, and enable them to live in that degree of comfort whic hthe well-paid laborer of the North and West can enjoy. In no other way can labor be retained in the South. If we permit the Negro and other laborers to be drawn from the South by the activity of labor agents from the North and West, seeking more men for work in iron and steel and kindred plants, we will not only lessen the supply of labor in the South, but we will bring about a condition in which this section, by reason of scarcity of labor, will have to pay even higher wages than other sections. Low wages are a curse to the individual and to the section in which they prevail. Good living wages are a blessing to the individual and to the country which pays them.

Property — 1922

Texas.

HOW WILL THEY USE IT?

Waller Tex Express 3/18/22

It probably is true that the greatest number of wealthy Negroes in American is gathered together in the city of Mexia, which has recently become famous the country over for its oil production. The heart of that producing field lies in the district originally occupied by Negro farmers and land owners. They are said to be reaping returns from their holdings ranging from $150 to $1200 per day.

What will they do with it? Will they continue their originally humble way of living or will they catch a vision of their possibilities under their changed condition and exert themselves to real advantage?

It is not selfish wonder which prompts such a query. It is a natural question to ask in view of the fact all about them there is crying need for the capital which a beneficient Providence has placed in their hands to be used to better their own condition and advance the welfare of the group of which they are members.

Time was when such men could afford to remain in seclusion, fearful lest they might by moving out of their accustomed environment, become the victims of sharpers and irresponsible individuals who would fleece them. But that time has passed. These men, if they are elderly probably have sons and daughters who have finished schools of worth, they have that kind of knowledge which would enable them to protect themselves and their parents.

These children should be backed, encouraged, urged to step out into business which would pay them, and their backers and furnish gainful and high class employment to many a prepared Negro boy and girl who now, efficient as to training, lacks the chance to exert himself.

They may realize too that there is no hurry attached to such a course. Study, travel, investigation are necessary to the successful pursuance of a course calculated to bring satisfaction to them that new fields are worth trying. But they should begin now to step out and see. They should now become anxious to really prove that Providence has not misplaced her benefits.

The passing of Bert Williams removed one of the most famous actors from the American stage and from our ranks an inimitable figure. His contribution to our prestige was by no meeans slight for he excelled in his line.

known, a peculiar fact is that most of this liquid-gold land was owned by negroes when oil was first discovered. Many have disposed of their oil royalties. Some have refused to sell and several are very wealthy.

Andy Eckels, negro grocery store proprietor, former slave, who owns a half block west of Mexia has consistently refused to sell. "I'll take a $1,000,000 for my land," is his stock reply to all offers. I'm contented here. There ain't goin' to be no tent nor oil well to dirty up my backyard."

NEGROES DRILLING IN MEXIA FIELD

BROOKLYN STANDARD UNION
JANUARY 22, 1922
(By United Press.)

MEXIA, Tex., Jan. 21.—Dusky "Big Slim" Simmons, of Houston, may become the Crippled Croesus of the "Golden Lane."

Big Slim drifted into the Mexia oil fields the early part of the month with a gang of blacks and announced he was ready to start drilling. Big Slim has his own company. They control a ten-acre lease which they obtained from Mrs. M. B. Kemp, a white woman.

"No white man can own an interest in my company," Simmons decreed.

Simmons, a powerful negro, lost a leg in a railroad accident several years ago. He walks with a crutch. Although Big Slim will be the first negro to drill for oil in the "Golden Lane," as the Mexia gusher pool is

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